

FAMILY NO. XXIII

New York, 5th November 1839

My Dear Father

Through the favours of a kind Providence, my journey is safely brought to an close. I am nappy to inform you that I reached New York last evening in the ship Toronto, after a passage of ^{about five} ~~20~~ days. I left London on the last of September, and Portsmouth on the 1st ult. The Steam-ship Great western which left on the 19th of last month reached New York two days before us! Our voyage was a rather pleasant one, although we had nearly 40 passengers. It was rather rough, but no very hard gales. I was sea-sick but a single day, and then but slightly. I have brought with me nearly the full amount of my purchases of books for the Michigan Library, a large collection. I am waiting to hear from Detroit to know whether it will be necessary for me to go up there this fall, I hope I shall not be obliged to make this journey until spring. I shall not come up to see you until I hear from Michigan, when I can take Saucutt in my way if it be necessary to go to Michigan. I am now busy in getting my boxes and parcels through the custom house, which is a tedious business. I hope I shall be allowed to remain here during the winter as I have a great deal to do here.

I find here a letter from my friend Dana—of the Exploring Expedition, dated Valparaiso. He seems not very well satisfied with his situation. I have not heard from any of you for a full year. Perhaps one of my sisters will favor me with a letter now that I am so near. Love to all. I remain Ever truly

Asa Gray